



Lack of connection to board and superintendent  
Cost of doing business higher  
# meetings  
Superintendent candidates  
Lack of teacher grade-level peers  
Social/experiential challenges of small class populations  
Inefficiencies in delivering educational services  
Attracting/maintaining quality personnel (faculty, school board, specialists, etc)  
Super spread thin  
Classes too small  
Competitive salary benefits  
Standards of education  
Schools individual units  
High cost declining population      increase expectations  
Duplication of service (trans., B&G)  
Doesn't allow for pooling of funds for P/D and student prog  
Common WSSU functions contracts?, calendars, staff devel.)  
Less responsive to WSSU and more to local

**Question #2: What are the advantages and disadvantages of the school district model suggested by Commissioner Cate in his White Paper?**

**Advantages**

Potential for more diversity for students  
More superintendent candidates  
Potential for more teacher collaboration  
Fewer supers for commissioner to oversee  
Super and staff – one board  
One board can set direction and focus  
Easy consensus for change  
One teachers contract  
Fewer meetings  
Easier to fill board positions - one board  
Standard ed programs with enforcement  
Flexibility of assigning teachers to schools  
Might improve consistency and commonality (coord. Transition from elem> hs  
Less micro-management of superintendents by boards  
Simplification of svcs.  
Perhaps it will lead to longer retention of superintendents (WSSU mode addresses this)  
Combined or pooling of P/D and programs (student)  
Consistent district policies  
Less administration and lower cost  
More superintendent support for principals  
Only for central office  
Governance-simplified contracts, more clout for transportation contract, etc, more consistency in preparation for MS/HS  
Implies a district contract

Philosophically allows district to think and act as a whole (supt. is focused on one board)  
More efficient

### **Disadvantages**

Less local input  
Small town needs lost in weighted voting  
Negligible or no cost savings  
Towns/taxpayers could be coerced to support undesired budget  
Potential for community discord  
Less local support for school and school budget  
Representation for small towns  
Could close school easier  
Local input is more difficult  
Will it save money?  
Control local – hiring input know your town – control farther removed up the ladder  
HS board elementary boards different single board K-12 not best  
Loss of local control/responsiveness  
No cost savings  
Who presents budget? – how does process work? Will we lose taxpayer support?  
Equity issues between towns (small towns swallowed up)  
Superintendent lacks connection with schools  
More delegated to principals  
Top Down/corporate model – this is not a corporation for what purpose?  
It ain't broke (don't fix it) – testing proves it ...Top 5 in nation consistently  
Big town vs small town  
Fear of unknown structure  
1 person/1 vote hurts the smallest towns  
Homogenization of schools – losses – education character...better schools might slide/worse  
schools would improve “dumbing down”  
No local control – or less  
The largest town has all the power  
Weighted voting would breed inequity and resentment  
Implies loss of local control and community centers

### **Debrief Comments:**

Pushing governance structure perceived cost savings not  
Changing ed service model starts top>bottom  
Education in 21st century still 19th and 20<sup>th</sup> century model  
Full funding commitment from Fed>state>local to change funding model..Sp ed 17%, NCLB  
already \$90 B behind  
Not a cost problem but funding problem  
State should reimburse towns for each child K-12 age regardless of local school attendance  
5M+ in state-paid should not leave the State of Vt.  
Legislature acts too quickly  
Unfunded mandates must stop  
Too much testing

Streamline efficiencies/procedures/requirements of DOE – would provide cost savings (e.g.-data management  
DOE should support statewide specialized programs across SU lines (eg-autism, E.D.,learning impaired, behaviorally challenged)  
Provide more ‘best practice’ documents for curriculum and programs  
Re-focus focus of Ed. from cost to what is best for children  
Stop practice of punitive controls/directive to force change  
If consolidation has to happen – use more of a progressive steps based on local needs (there’s nothing wrong with hybrids – we don’t all have to be the same)  
Consolidation shouldn’t cost us money (consultants, etc. should come from DOE) (does DOE have this capacity)  
Joint contracts restructure 1 man/1 vote, give towns equal power, better oversight of home schooling, change funding appropriation from per pupil to per classroom  
Unions form among similar size towns ----animosity  
Equal representation on new boards  
Unified health care and compensation contracts  
Consolidated transportation  
More cohesive governance system leads to more flexibility and delivery of educational services (curriculum, magnet schools, co-curricular offerings)  
Governance that values structure and holds high expectations for all of its constituents  
Governance that values efficiency (+ improvements) in purchase and distribution of supplies  
Governance should be a model of cooperative learning and teaching relevant life skills  
Stronger voice with respect to statewide and national assessments (NCLB)  
Raise expectations of principals so sups.don’t have to attend every meeting  
Majority lack of support for proposal  
Huge amt of su expertise – let’s look at other models before being bound to one model  
We are focusing on education not cost, cost, cost  
Prior look at governance change revealed smaller towns would have had to pay more in taxes – important to recognize this discrepancy  
Need to look at being more efficient in ed services it’s all punitive measures, use technology to change ratio of how we teach teacher/student, we are operating on an old paradigm of teacher/student ratios, people are our most expensive resources

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